

ABSTRACT

As system and method are provided for communicating weather conditions to remote locations, such as inside of residential homes, offices, or businesses. In accordance with one embodiment, a modified smoke detector is provided having an integrated RF receiver for receiving message packets containing information that may be conveyed through its speaker, buzzer, or other sound-emanating device. In accordance with another embodiment, a system is provided. The system which may include a mechanism for detecting a weather condition, a wireless transmitter in communication with the mechanism for detecting a weather condition, wherein the wireless transmitter configured to receive a signal from the means for detecting a weather condition and transmit a corresponding signal via electromagnetic waves. The system may also include a receiver remotely located from the wireless transmitter, the receiver configured to receive the electromagnetic signal transmitted from the smoke detector. Finally, the system may include a sound-emanating device, and a sound control mechanism for controlling the sound-emanating device, wherein the sound control mechanism is responsive to the electromagnetic signal received by the receiver. In yet another embodiment, a method is provided. The method includes steps of: (1) determining that a weather condition (e.g., severe weather condition) exists, (2) transmitting a radio frequency (RF) signal containing information about the weather condition, (3) receiving the RF signal with a RF receiver disposed in a smoke detector (or other device), and (4) sounding a buzzer (or other sound emanating device) in response to receiving the RF signal.